AL-KISA FOUNDATION

The Spiritual Season

2018 Project Booklet

A Letter from Moulana Abidi

Salāmun ʿAlaykum,

A plant does not suddenly appear out of nowhere. It begins as a seed and gradually grows in stages. But in order for a plant to be healthy, it must also receive adequate amounts of water, nutrients, and sunshine. In other words, it must be taken care of properly. One can analogize the soul in a similar manner.

In Islām, the purpose of a human's existence is to reach perfection, which is defined as closeness (*qurb*) to Allāh. Just as the spring season marks the regrowth of the plans, the month of Rajab marks the renewal of a person's soul and quest for union with Allāh. In this sense, Rajab is the month of reseeding our faith and relationship with Allāh. We nourish this seed with spiritual water and sun through various recommended ritual practices and by following the example and blueprint of the Prophet Muḥammad (S) and his Ahl al-Bayt (A).

This seed eventually grows into a plant during the month of Shaʿbān. In this month, we continue to grow the plant by nourishing the soul with proper akhlāq and observing our duties towards Allāh.

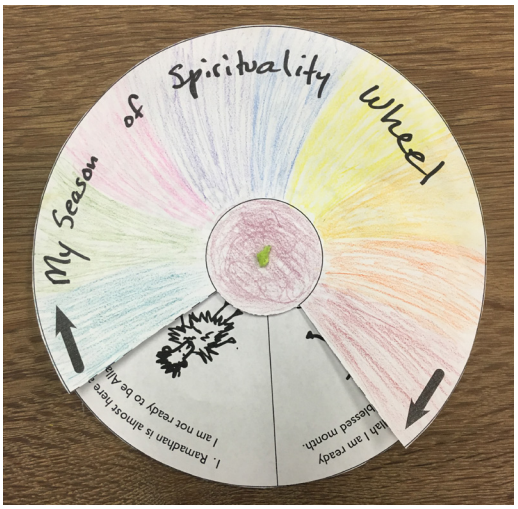
Why do we do this? These actions of renewal are there to prepare us for the upcoming month of Ramaḍān. The month of Ramaḍān is critical in our quest to reach spiritual perfection and for our salvation as Muslims in the Hereafter. For a month of such importance, do we really want to enter it empty handed? Obviously not. We want to enter it spiritually renewed so that we may take our relationship with Allāh to the next level.

Let us therefore take advantage of this beautiful month of Rajab. Let us grow this seed of faith by following the example of the Noble Prophet (S) and his Ahl al-Bayt (A) and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allāh's creatures all around the earth, we open the opportunity to finally reach communion with Him.

Inshāʾ Allāh the project lesson plans found in this booklet will assist in planting the love and importance of these three months in our children. If you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback, please feel free to email and let us know (info@kisakids.org).

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

The Season of Spirituality



Objective: Children will learn about the Season of Spirituality and how Rajab, Sha'ban, and Shahr Ramadhan all have their separate roles in this season.

Suggested Ages: 5+

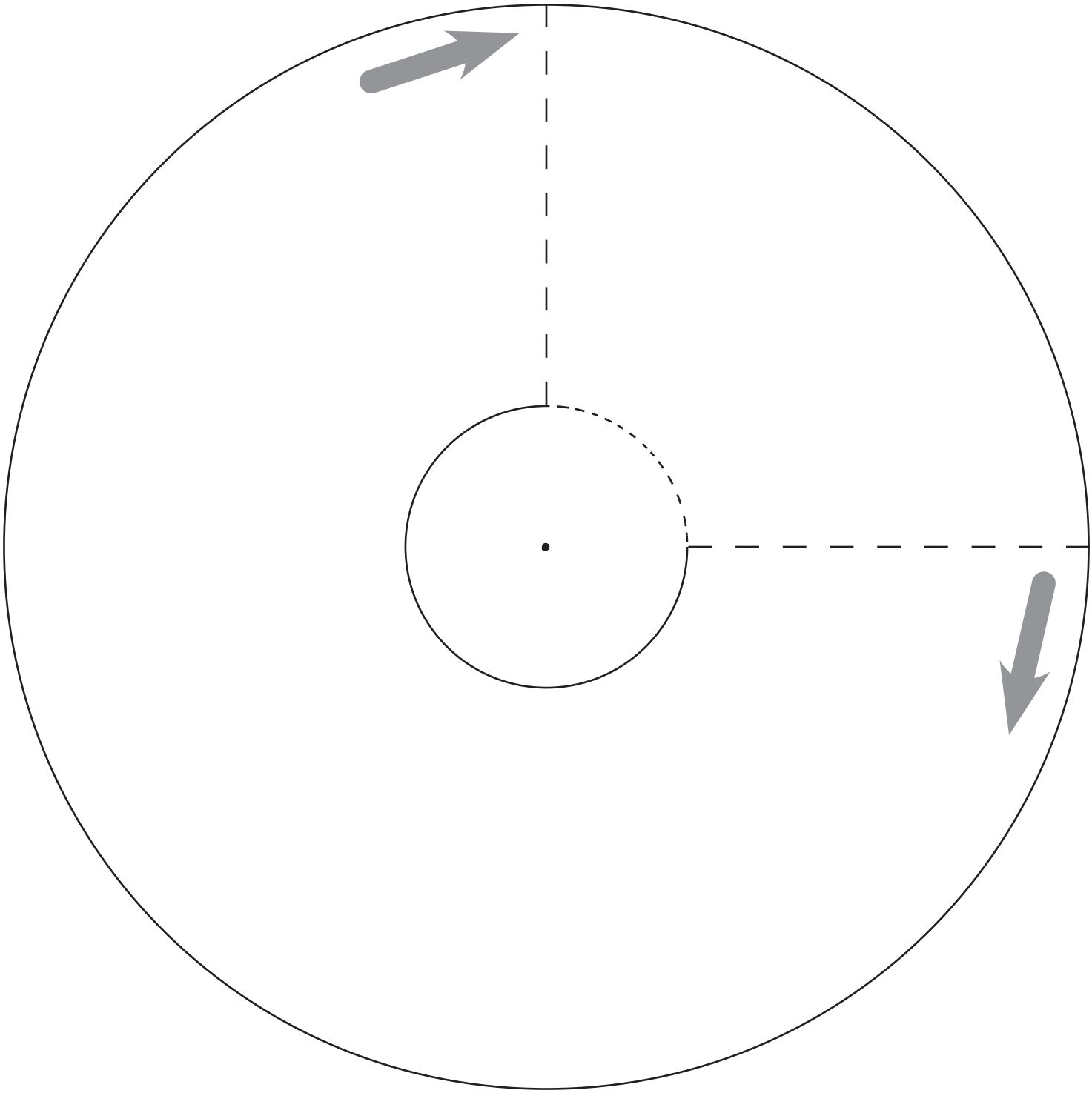
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Sheep template (printed on cardstock)
- Cover template (printed on cardstock)
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers
- Scissors
- Brad fastener

Procedure:

1. **SAY:** Salaam alaikum, everyone! Can anyone tell me how many seasons we have in the year? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** Yes! We have spring, summer, fall, and winter! Alhamdulillah! But did you know that Allah, the Most Kind, has also given us another special season called the Season of Spirituality? Does anyone know about this season? (Wait for answers). Can anyone name these three special months? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** Great answers! The Season of Spirituality is a special time of the year where we remember and pray to Allah more than normal! There are three Islamic months that make up this seasons. Does anyone know which months?
4. **SAY:** Excellent! The three months that make up the Season of Spirituality are Rajab, Sha'ban, and Shahr Ramadhan. These three months are extra special because during these months, Allah gives us a special opportunity to pray and become closer to Him. Each month of this season has a special role that helps us cleans and beautify our souls. Let's take a closer look.
5. **SAY:** The month of Rajab is the month in which we clean our souls. We can do this by reciting "Astaghfirullah" and asking Allah for forgiveness.
6. **SAY:** Once we have cleaned our souls, we can make our souls beautiful during the month of Sha'ban through Salawaat.
7. **SAY:** Finally, in the month of Ramadhan, we are ready to be the guests of Allah. And it is in this month that Shaytaan is locked up and Allah is extra kind to us, since we are His guests! Alhamdulillah! To help us remember and become closer to Allah in this seasons, we will be making a special Wheel of Spirituality tonight to help us remember the role of each month and what we need to do in each of these months to earn Allah's mercy and kindness, inshaAllah.
8. At this time, hold up the wheel with the sheep and explain to them the different steps of purity the sheep is going through and how this relates to the spiritual season.
   a. His wool is a bit messy just as our souls might be by the time we reach the season of spirituality
   b. Next he washes (cleanses) his wool just as we can cleanse our souls in the month of Rajab
   c. Then he combs and beautifies his wool just as we can beautify our souls in the month of Shaban
   d. And Finally his wool is clean and beautiful and he is presentable just as our souls may be presentable and ready to be Allah's guest in the month of Shahr Ramadhan.
9. Then, hand out the sheep template to each child. Ask them to color the pictures of the sheep. Then, they can cut out the circle.
10. Next, ask them to cut out the second circle (cover wheel), cutting along the dotted lines. This will be the window that will reveal each section of the sheep wheel as it is turned.
11. They can then color and decorate their cover wheel and write on it "The Season of Spirituality."
12. Then, have them lay the cover wheel over the sheep wheel.
13. Assist children in making a small puncture at the center of the wheel. There is a dot marking the spot where this should be. Then, help them poke the brad through the hole and fasten it in the back. They can now turn the wheel to see the different stages of this season.



1. Ramadhan is almost here and
I am not ready to be Allah's guest

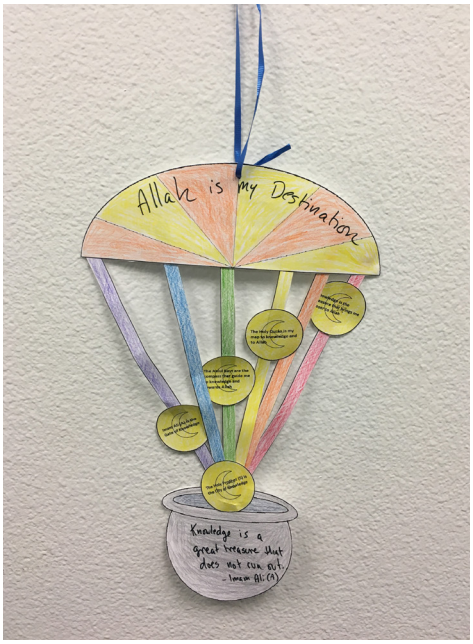
2. To prepare I must spend Rajab cleansing my soul
by seeking forgiveness from Allah.

3. In Sha'ban I must prepare by beautifying
my soul through salawaat.

4. It is now Ramadhan. InshaAllah I am ready
to be Allah's guest in this blessed month.

Imam Ali (A): The Gate to Knowledge

Objective: Children will learn about what it means to follow the Ahlul Bayt and how to apply their lessons in life and worship



Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 min.

Materials:

- Coins and pot template
- Arch of light and rainbow template
- Crayons/color pencils
- Marker
- Scissors
- Glue
- String or yarn

Procedure:

1. **SAY:** Salaam alaykum, everyone! Today, we will be talking about our first Imam! Who can tell me who our first Imam is? (Wait for responses)
2. SAY: Yes, excellent! Our first Imam is Imam Ali (A). What are some things we have learned from Imam Ali (A)? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** MashaAllah, you have already learned so much from our beloved Amir ul Momineen (A)! Today, I want to share a special hadith that tells us a little bit more about him. Prophet Muhammad (S) once said, "I am the city of knowledge and Ali is the gate." What does this mean? How do we enter a city? (Wait for responses)
4. **SAY:** Yes, exactly! If we want to enter a city, we have to go through the gate! So, if we want to get the knowledge of Prophet Muhammad (S), who do we have to go through? (Everyone should call out Imam Ali (A))
5. **SAY:** Yes, Alhamdulillah! And where can we learn from Imam Ali (A)? Well, there's a special book that has many of his sayings and letters. Does anyone know the name of this book? (Wait for responses)
6. **SAY:** Yes, the book is called Nahjul Balagha! It has many of Imam Ali's speeches, letters, and sayings. Imam Ali (A) had so much knowledge and he has encouraged us to learn and gain knowledge also!
7. **NARRATE:** Imam Ali (A) has said, "Knowledge is a great treasure that does not run out."
8. **ASK:** What are some ways that we learn and gain knowledge? (Wait for responses)
9. **SAY:** All great answers! We learn from teachers, the Masjid, aalims, books, projects, and many other ways. How is knowledge a treasure? (Wait for responses)
10. **SAY:** Excellent answers! One way that knowledge is a treasure is that the right kind of knowledge helps us to know and become closer to Allah. Since our Ahlul Bayt (S) were so knowledgeable, they always remembered Allah and taught us how to get closer to to Allah. Today, we will be doing a special project to remind us about the importance of knowledge and how it should guide us towards Allah, inshaAllah!
11. At this time, pass out crayons and give each child a copy of the coins and pot template. Have them color the pot and coins however they wish.
12. Next, give each child a copy of the light and rainbow template. The stripes should be colored like a rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet). The arch should be colored to resemble rays of light (yellowish).
13. Next, ask the children to cut out all the pieces. The rainbow stripes should all be cut as separate strips.
14. Have the children lay the arch about 7.5" above the pot
15. Then, beginning from one end of the **arches bottom edge,** the children should glue rainbow stripes **at angles** so that the **bottom of each stripe** meets at the center of the pot's mouth.
16. Glue the pot end of each stripe to the pot **before** gluing the next stripe to the arch and the pot
17. Next glue the coin with: The Holy Prophet (S) is the City of Knowledge, over the bottom end of the rainbow in the pots mouth.
18. Over that on the right most strip glue: Imam Ali (A) is the Gate to Knowledge
19. Moving up and over glue on: "The Ahlul Bayt are…", Then up and over: "The Holy Quran, and finally up and over to the right most stripe: "Knowledge is the treasure…."
20. Finally on the arch the children should write: Allah is my Destination
21. On the pot children should write: Knowledge is a great treasure that does not run out." - Imam Ali (A)
22. Lasty help the children punch a hole at the top of the arch and tie a ribbon or string loop to hang it by

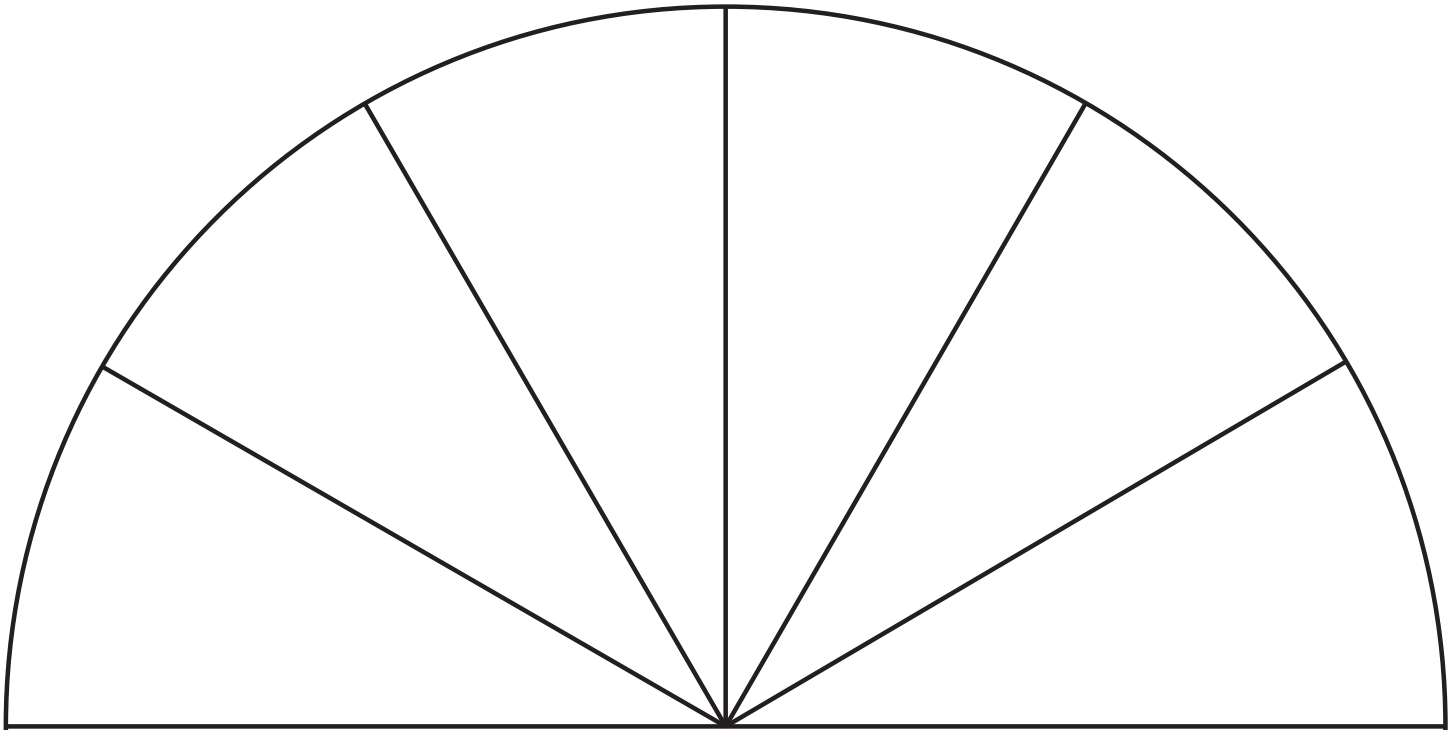
Prophet Muhammad (S) is the city of knowledge

Knowledge is the treasure that brings me closer to Allah

The Holy Quran is my map to knowledge and Allah

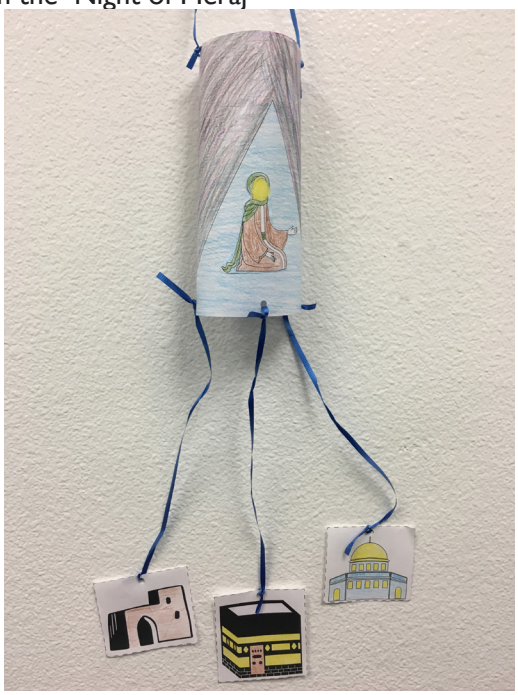
Imam Ali (A) is the gate to the city of knowledge

The Ahlul Bayt (A) are the compass that guide me towards knowledge and Allah



The Night of Me'raj

Objective: Children will learn about The Holy Prophet's journey to Heaven on the Night of Meraj



Suggested Ages: 5+

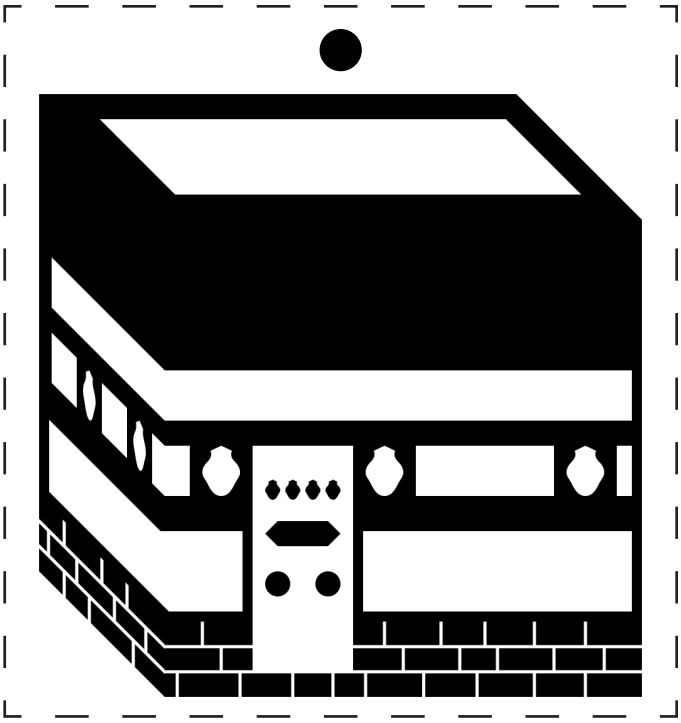
Time: 40 minutes

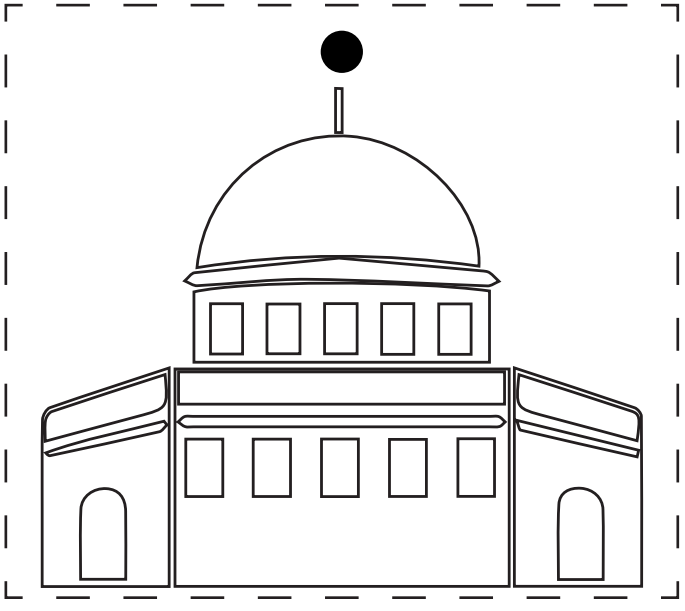
Materials:

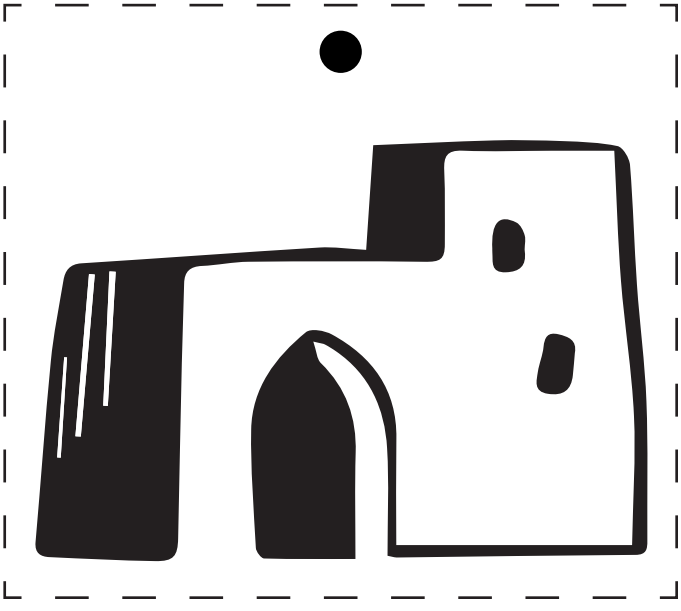
- Triangle sheet template
- Holy Prophet (S) and his three destinations template
- Crayons/coloring pencils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stapler
- 6-inch pieces of yarn or string (3 per child)
- 12-inch piece of string (1 per child)

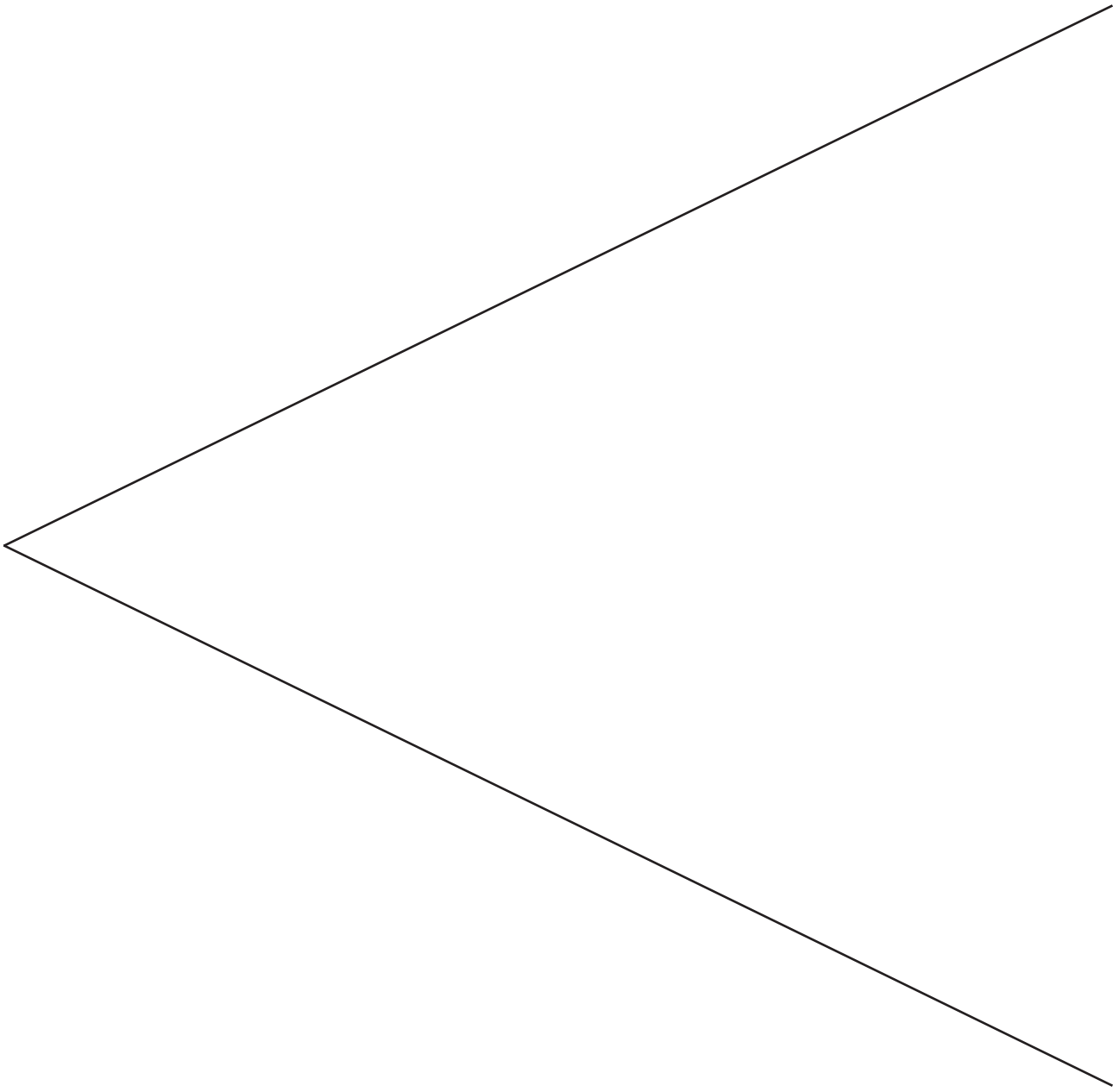
Procedure:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaykum! Thank you all for joining me here tonight on this special night! Does anyone know why we're here? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** Yes, very good! We are here to celebrate the event of Me'raj. Does anyone know what the event of Me'raj is? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** Exactly, the night of Me'raj is a special night! On this night, Prophet Muhammad (S) went up to the heavens and spoke with Allah! Does anyone know how he reached all the way up to the heavens? (Wait for answers)
4. **SAY:** Wonderful guesses! In the night, the Holy Prophet (S) rode on a special animal called a Buraq. He was staying the night at the home of Umme Hani (Imam Ali's sister). He rode the Buraq from her house to Masjid al-Haram, where the Ka'bah is. From Masjid al-Haram, he was taken to Masjid al-Aqsa. And finally, from Masjid al-Aqsa, Angel Jibra'eel went with him up to the heavens, where he got to speak with Allah! What do you think Allah and the Prophet (S) talked about? (Wait for answers)
5. **SAY:** Great guesses! Allah and the Prophet (S) spoke about many great things. One of the things Allah taught the Prophet (S) during this visit visit to was how to do wudhu and pray salaah. Isn't that cool?! But, guess what? This night is special for another reason as well! This is also the Night of Mabath. Does anyone know what Mabath is? (Wait for answers)
6. **SAY:** Good guesses! The event of Mabath is when the Prophet (S) was in the Cave of Hira and Angel Jibra'eel came down and taught him the first verse of the Quran. Does anyone know what verse it was? (Wait for answers.)
7. **SAY:** Excellent! He taught him the verse "Iqra bismi Rabbikaladhi khalaq" — "Read in the name of your Lord who created you!"
8. **SAY:** Tonight, we are going to do a special project to remind us of the beautiful event of Me'raj!
9. At this time, hand out crayons and a copy of the triangle template to each child.
10. Ask children to color the areas outside of the triangle with layers of black, blue, pink, and purple.
11. The triangle should then colored light blue or yellow to give the feel of an other worldly ray of light.
12. Then, give each child a copy of the template of the Prophet (S) and his three destinations.
13. The box with the template of the Holy Prophet (S) should be colored the same color as the triangle.
14. Then, the children should cut out the 3 destinations and the figure of the Holy Prophet (S) as closely as possible.
15. Help children glue the cutout of the Holy Prophet (S) in the center of the triangle.
16. Then, roll the whole sheet into a cylinder so that the design is on the outside. Assist the children in stapling the edges together.
17. Punch holes into the three destination boxes at the marked spots.
18. Punch three holes into the base of the cylinder: one in front, one on the left side, and one on the right side.
19. Now, pass out the four ribbons to the children. Assist the children in tying the 6-inch strings to the base and then trying the three destination boxes to the ribbons.
20. Punch two more holes at opposite sides of the top of the cylinder.
21. Tie the opposite ends of the 12-inch ribbon to these two holes, forming a handle.









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